



*Traffic jam in Guildhall Street 1960 – 228.61*

**c.44.6: Cambridge GUILDHALL STREET & GUILDHALL PLACE Scrapbook by Mike Petty**

1899 04 02c

The Red Cow Inn concert hall, Guildhall Street, Cambridge. Special engagement for six nights of Miss Sadie St John, comedienne and dancer; Miss Gracie White, serio and dancer and Mr G. Kent, comedian and mimic. American bowling saloon now open. – Advert

**1900**

1903 12 23

Cambridge architect Edwin Bays has produced a plan for a new 60 feet-wide road from Downing Street to Guildhall Street, parallel to Corn Exchange Street. This would create valuable frontages for business premises on either side and lead to a site for a new Cambridgeshire County Hall. There would be a fountain to take off the nakedness of the wide entrance at St Andrew's Hill, replacing the old Corn Exchange. It would relieve the congested traffic in the narrow Petty Cury and provide a direct access to the chief colleges.

**1910**

1910 02 04

Licensing –Cardinal's Cap Guildhall Place - 10 02 04e & f

1911 03 31

The new Labour Exchange in Guildhall Street was visited by large numbers of people, most of whom contented themselves with scanning the red-boarded notices of situations vacant posted up in the windows. But about 40 applicants for work gave their names and some were at once notified of vacancies. Exchanges all over the country are linked up and the Cambridge office communicated by telephone with the Aberdeen Exchange to help a Scottish man find work. There are vacancies for motor repairers, electrical fitters and shorthand typists and a good demand for healthy men expert in pick and shovel work who are willing to go to Australia as railway labourers. 11 03 31e

1911 10 06

The Cambridge offices of the Board of Trade Labour Exchange have been removed from Guildhall Street to Regent Street and the work of finding and filling vacant situations is going on smoothly. The site near Hyde Park Corner most convenient with larger rooms for men and women. Every effort is made to encourage applicants to make use of the office as a waiting room – not a smoke room – with daily papers and magazines where they may remain in the hope they will be the right person in the right place when a job turns up. 11 10 06

1912 07 26

Licensing - Lamb in Guildhall St (details) 12 07 26 o&p

1914 06 04

An alarming accident happened in Petty Cury. Outside Mr A.E. Nichol's shop at the corner of Guildhall Street there are large incandescent globes suspended. One of these globes, which was illuminated, suddenly collapsed and struck the pavement with an alarming crash. The street was crowded at the time and it was marvellous that no one was hurt. The globe fell at the feet of a bystander who luckily was not injured, though glass was scattered in all directions 14 06 04 p9

1919 10 22

Two new cinemas proposed, Sidney Street by Cambridge Picture Playhouse Ltd and Guildhall Street by A.J. Pointer – 19 10 22f

## **1920**

1920 01 21

Plans for new cinema in Guildhall St & Guildhall Place to be erected by A.J. Pointer of Victoria Cinema considered – 20 01 21a

1920 04 03

Building of new cinemas in Sussex Street and Guildhall Street vetoed by council

1920 10 20

Proposed Kinema. At their meeting tomorrow, the Borough Council will be recommended by the Plans Committee to rescind their resolutions which placed a veto on the erection of the proposed kinema in Guildhall Street, and to give permission for the existing buildings to be demolished. The minute of the Plans Committee dealing with the matter states: A letter was read from Mr. A. J. Pointer, stating that a building on the site proposed to be used for the erection of a kinema would be unoccupied by the 25th October 1920, and asking that he might be allowed to proceed with the building of a kinema in Guildhall Street.

1920 10 28

Council approve demolition of buildings in Guildhall Street on site acquired by A.J. Pointer for an up-to-date Kinema – 20 10 28b

1923 01 08

The staff of the "Cambridge Daily News" had a night off on Saturday when they sat down to dinner together in "The Dug-Out", Guildhall Street, Cambridge. It was the first gathering of the kind for very many years. Mr A.C. Taylor (managing director) said he had tried to carry on the good work that his father had done in the town. He had the advantage of a loyal staff and he knew that on them depended the actual work during the few years that he was trying to pick up the threads of newspapers. Mr Morley Stuart (Editor) said some of the staff who had been working together for a good many years and had passed through some rather strenuous times had felt it would be a good thing if they could meet round the dinner table. It helped to rub off the rough edges and to enable them to understand each other better.

1923 01 26

A shop without a sale is like a ship without a rudder. Surplus stock must be sold at all cost. We must turn our stock over, that is why we offer such knock-out bargains. Boys and youths' overcoats in naps, cheviots and all-wool blanket cloths from 5s.11d. Boys' knickers in splendid wearing quality materials from 1s. Ladies' coats for winter wear in various blanket cloths, well-tailored, absolute bargains from 6s.11d. Special sale bargains for tomorrow - 300 men's caps 1s. Northern Clothing Co., 9 Guildhall Street (opposite Corn Exchange), Cambridge – advert

1924 07 14c

Cambridge is shortly to lose a rendezvous which has become very popular in the years succeeding the war. I refer to the “Dug-Out” which, with the Black Swan public house next door (in Guildhall Place) has been sold to the University Catholic Association. It is their intention to transform the premises into a centre for Roman Catholic undergraduates

### **1930**

1930 09 04

A Cambridge woman told the court she had locked the door of her home at no.5 Guildhall Place but left the front window unfastened to allow her son to get in during the night. She was awakened by her estranged common-law husband who had got in and was flourishing a revolver. He said it was a dummy revolver loaded with blank cartridges and explained they had lived together for 14 years until she took up with a new man. 30 09 04a

1932 08 19

John Austin Fabb started in business as a printer, moving to Guildhall Street in 1881 and Corn Exchange Street in 1920. He printed the Cambridge Review from its inception in 1879 and conceived the idea of a list of Resident Members of the University in 1890. During the war he compiled seven editions of the list of Cambridge University men on active service. He was a prominent Freemason and founded the York Street Sick Club. 32 08 19e

1933 04 20

Cambridge councillors considered schemes for the rebuilding of the Guildhall. One would alter the whole site, the other would set back the front but the building on Guildhall Street would remain untouched and would revert to being a court. But some councillors thought the Parkside scheme was still the best and would be far cheaper. 33 04 20c & d

1938 10 21

A.R. Nichols and Son, butchers on the corner of Petty Cury and Guildhall Street notify customers that owing to building reconstruction in Petty Cury they are temporarily carrying on their business at their East Road shop and also at a stall on Market Hill 38 10 21

1939 10 06

Suggestions for brightening the black-out at Cambridge. Heffer's have a selection of indoor games such as Autobridge, dominoes and jig-saw puzzles. Coad's stock khaki wools and other artistic shades for personal shoppers while Johnson's have a range of novels as well as black-out paper. Gray of Sidney Street can supply miniature billiard tables but those who prefer the real thing should visit the Guildhall Street Billiards Saloon which is open from early morning till late at night. 39 10 06b

### **1950**

1954 07 19

The Minister's decision on the County Development Plan has been announced. The only major Cambridge items not approved are the site of the bus station between Christ's college & Emmanuel and the proposed development for residential purposes of the smallholding land north of Arbury Road. All the central area road proposals including the 'spine relief road', the new Guildhall Street and a cross-town route joining Emmanuel Street with Downing Street have been approved together

with the new Chesterton Bridge over the Cam near Walnut Tree Avenue, a multi-storey car park in Corn Exchange Street and a subway at the railway station.

1959 01 16

The new plan for the centre of Cambridge will have as its central feature a 'pedestrian shopping precinct' from which all vehicles will be excluded. An earlier scheme which foresaw a new and widened Guildhall Street running through the Lion Yard, with new shops and a multi-deck car park, has now been dropped after being criticised as likely to attract too much extra traffic. The proposal incorporates a car park which might be placed underground. But it is certain that Corn Exchange Street would become an important vehicular road. 59 01 16

### ***1960s The Cambridgeshire Collection has newspaper cuttings files from this date***

#### ***1960***

1962 05 07

Mr Jack Cotton and Mr Charles Clore, the property millionaires, have bought the site of Heffer's from Emmanuel College on the understanding that the bookshop will be rehoused in any new redevelopment of Petty Cury. Their company, City Centre Properties, acquired the adjoining Lion Hotel site last year. The Director of Dolamore, the wine merchants, who hold the freehold of most of the corner with Guildhall Street, would not say whether they had also approached them. Recently this part of Petty Cury was included in the area scheduled for redevelopment. The firm also have an interest in the New Theatre site which is now being demolished to be replaced by a block of offices 62 05 07

1966 09 01

House of Dolamore bought wine and spirit business of George Morley in Petty Cury and Guildhall Street some 80 years ago; now has new address in Wellington Street – 66 09 01 & 1a

1967 11 08

Abbott's Cambridge Tourist Centre started when American tour party let down; grew until 50 university students handling tours to Cambridge; then diversified into foreign travel by local residents; moved Guildhall St by Dec 1959 – 67 11 08a

#### ***1970***

1972 05 12

Robinson and Gimbert, the Cambridge builders with reputation for high class work have been taken over by one of the "big boys" of British home building. From next week they will be trading under the direction of T & E Homes Ltd of Reigate. The Cambridge firm who started in Guildhall Street 25 years ago and moved to Victoria Road six years ago have 60 full time employees. Robinson and Gimbert currently have schemes on the go at Oakington and Stapleford, and recently completed one at Waterbeach. They build about 50 houses a year

1973 04 09

The Market Square ends of Guildhall Street and Peas Hill, Cambridge, were closed to traffic today as part of city council's plans eventually to make much of the central area into a pedestrian precinct. It is now possible to walk from Sidney Street to King's Parade without crossing a road. City surveyor, Mr Geoffrey Cresswell said that some motorists were still driving round Market Square attempting to get into Peas Hill. The present closure is officially regarded as only "temporary" - although it will last for possibly another two years - while rebuilding of the adjacent Lion Yard site is under way

1974 07 02

It was 50 years ago that Mrs Ruth Mellanby began to guide people round the colleges when she was asked by a newly-opened travel agency in Guildhall St, Cambridge to take two elderly American

tourists round. This was the beginning of a life-long and distinguished career as a guide. In 1950 she wrote her little book, "Cambridge in brief" as a thumbnail sketch of the colleges. Then 20 years ago she started the Cambridge Guide Service, training a group of around 20 guides. The Guild of Guide Lecturers ultimately drove the street touts who at one time operated their own dubious type of tours, out of business

1976 02 02

Because of its low unemployment figure Cambridge is a labour-importing city. Up to £3,000 worth of government grants could be given to a man and his family in an area of high unemployment to persuade them to live and work here. The new Jobcentre in Guildhall Place has aptly been described as a job supermarket. An inviting window display tempts people into the well-carpeted warmth. The centre employs 26 people who find their work far more enjoyable now than ever they did in the days of the Labour Exchange